HIS MAIESTIES DECLARATION,

Touching his proceedings in the *late Assemblie and Conuention* of Parliament.

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HIS MAIESTIES Declaration, touching his proceedings in the late Assembly and *Conuention of Parliament.*

HAuing of late, vpon mature deliberation, with the aduice and vniforme consent of Our whole Priuie Councell, determined to dissolue the Assembly and Conuention of Parliament, lately called together by Our Regall power and Authoritie, Wee were pleased by Our Proclamation, giuen at Our Palace of *Westminster* the sixt day of this instant *Ianuary*, to declare, not onely Our pleasure and resolution

therein, but also to expresse some especiall passages and proceedings, moouing vs to that resolution: Wherein, albeit hauing so many yeeres swayed the swords and scepters of three renowned kingdomes, Wee cannot but discerne (as much as any Prince liuing) what appertaineth to the height of a powerfull Monarch: yet, that all men might discerne, that Wee, like Gods true Vicegerent, delight not so much in the greatnesse of Our place, as in the goodnesse & benignitie of our gouernment, We were content in that one Act to descend many degrees beneath Our Selfe: First, by communicating to all Our people the reasons of a resolution of State, which Princes vse to reserue, *inter arcana Imperij*, to themselues and their Priuie Councell: Secondly, by mollifying and mixing the peremptorie and binding qualitie of a Proclamation, with the indulgence of a milde and fatherly Instruction: And lastly, leading them, and opening to them that forbidden Arke of Our absolute and indisputable Prerogatiue, concerning the calling, continuing,

and diſſoluing of Parliaments: which, though it were more then ſuperabundant to make Our Subiects know the realtie of Our ſincere intentions; yet Wee not ſatiſfied therewith, but finding the bounds of a Proclamation too ſtraight to conteine and expreſſe the boundleſſe affection that Wee beare to Our good and louing people, are pleaſed hereby to inlarge Our Selfe, (as Wee promiſed in Our ſaid Proclamation) by a more full and plaine expreſſion of thoſe Letters and Meſſages that paſſed from Vs to the Commons in Parliament, which by reaſon of the length of them, could not bee related at large, but briefly pointed at in Our ſaid Proclamation. For, as in generall the great actions of Kings are done as vpon a ſtage, obuious to the publike gazing of euery man; ſo are Wee moſt willing, that the trueth of this particular, concerning Our owne honour, and the ſatisfaction of Our Subiects, ſhould bee repreſented vnto all men without vaile or couering, being aſſured that the moſt plainneſſe and freedome will moſt aduantage

Vs, hauing in this, and all Our Actions euer affected such sinceritie and vprightnes of heart, as were Wee all transparent, and that men might readily passe to Our inward thoughts, they should there perceiue the selfe-same affections, which Wee haue euer professed in Our outward words and Actions.

Hauing anticipated the time of reassembling Our Parliament to the twentieth day of *November* last, (which Wee formerly appointed to haue met vpon the eighth of *February* next,) vpon the confidence that their noble and generous declaration at their parting the fourth of *June* put vs in, of their free and liberall assistance to the recouery of Our Childrens ancient inheritance; and hauing declared to them Our resolution of taking vpon Vs the defence of Our childrens patrimonie by way of Armes, the House of Commons very heartily and dutifully fell immediatly after their reassembling, to treat of a necessary supplie, and concluded for the present, to grant a Subsidie to be paid in *February* next, (the

laſt paiment of the latter Subſidie granted by them being not to come in vntill *May* following) whereby Wee were well and cleerly ſatisfied of the good intentiō of the Commons in generall, by whoſe vniforme vote & aſſent that Subſidy was reſolued on, not without intimation of a more ample ſupplie to be yeelded in conuenient time.

But before this their reſolution was reduced into a formall Acte or Bill, ſome diſcontented perſons that were the cauſe of all that euill which ſucceeded, endeauouring to clog the good will of the Commons with their owne vnreaſonable ends, fell to diſpute in the Houſe of Our high Prerogatiues, namely of the match of Our deareſt ſonne the Prince, of the making warre with forreigne Princes Our Allies, betweene whom and Vs there was a firme peace religiouſly made and obſerued hitherunto: All which they couered with the cloake of Religion, and with the faire pretence of a duetifull Petition to bee preferred to Vs. Wee vnderſtanding right well, that thoſe points were not diſputable

in Parliament, without Our owne Royall direction, being of Our higheſt Prerogatiues, the very Characters of Souereignty; & thinking, that when euery Subiect by nature, and the Lawes of the Realme, had the power of matching their children according to their owne beſt liking, none ſhould denie Vs the like; eſpecially Wee hauing at the beginning of the Parliament declared Our purpoſe concerning the matching of Our Sonne, the Prince, were fully perſwaded, that thoſe ſpecious outſides of Religion and humble petitioning, were added onely to gaine paſſage vnto thoſe things, which being propounded in their true colours, muſt needs haue appeared vniuſt and vnreaſonable, as matters wherewith neuer any Parliament had preſumed to meddle before, except they had bene thereunto required by their King; nay, not befitting Our Priuie Councell to meddle with, without Our ſpeciall command and allowance; ſince the very conſulting vpon ſuch matters (though in neuer ſo priuate a maner) being diſcouered abroad, might at

at ſometime produce as ill effects, as if they were publikely reſolued vpon. For as concerning the point of Religion, We aſwell in the beginning of the Parliament, by a publike and open Declaration made to both Houſes in the higher Houſe of Parliament, as alſo ſhortly after, by a gracious anſwere vnto a former Petition of theirs, expreſſed to the full Our immutable reſolution to maintaine true Religion, beſides the vntainted practiſe of Our whole life in that point. And howſoeuer an humble Petition beare a faire ſhew of reſpect; yet if vnder colour of concluding on a Petition, a way ſhould bee opened to treat in Parliament of the myſteries of State, without Our Royall allowance, it were a great and vnuſuall breach vpon the Royall power: Beſides, who knoweth not that the preferring of a Petition, includes an expectation to haue it graunted? and therefore to nippe this ſpringing euill in the beginning, Wee directed Our Letters to the Speaker of that Houſe, the tenour of which Letters followeth.

MAster Speaker, *Wee haue heard by diuers reports to Our great griefe, That the farre distance of Our Person at this time from Our high Court of Parliament, caused by Our want of health, hath emboldened some fiery and popular spirits in Our House of Commons, to debate and argue publikely, in matters farre beyond their reach or capacitie, and so tending to Our high dishonour, and to the trenching vpon Our Prerogatiue Royall. You shall therefore acquaint that house with Our pleasure, That none therein shall henceforth presume to meddle with any thing concerning Our gouernment, or mysteries of State; namely, not to speake of Our deerest*

Sonnes

Sonnes Match with the Daughter of Spaine, *nor to touch the Honour of that King, or any other Our friends or Confederates: And alſo not to meddle with any mens particulars, which haue their due motion in Our ordinarie Courts of Iuſtice. And whereas We heare that they haue ſent a meſſage to* Sir Edwin Sandys, *to know the reaſons of his late reſtraint, you ſhall in Our name reſolue them, That it was not for any miſdemeanour of his in Parliament: But to put them out of doubt of any queſtion of that nature that may ariſe among them hereafter, you ſhall reſolue them in Our name, That We thinke our Selfe very free and able to puniſh any mans miſdemeanours in Parliament, aſwell during their ſitting, as after; which*

We meane not to ſpare hereafter, vpon any occaſion of any mans inſolent behauiour there, that ſhalbe miniſtred vnto Vs. And if they haue already touched any of theſe points which Wee haue here forbidden, in any Petition of theirs which is to be ſent vnto Vs, it is Our pleaſure that you ſhall tell them, That except they reforme it before it come to Our hands, Wee will not deigne the hearing nor anſwering of it. And whereas Wee beare that they are deſirous, that We ſhould make this a Seſſion of Parliament before Chriſtmas, You may tell them, It ſhall be in their default if they want it: For if they will make ready betweene this and that time, ſome ſuch Lawes as ſhall be really good for the Common-wealth, Wee will very willingly

lingly giue Our Royall assent vnto them: And so it shall thereby appeare, That if good Lawes bee not made at this time for the weale of the people, the blame shall onely and most iustly lie vpon such turbulent spirits, as shall preferre their particular ends to the weale of this Kingdome and Commonwealth. And so We bid you farewell. Giuen at Our Court at Newmarket, the third day of December, 1621.

To Our trustie and welbeloued,
The Speaker of Our Commons
House of Parliament.

VVhich

WHich Letters being publikely read in the Houſe, they were ſo farre either from reforming their intended Petition, which conteined thoſe points by Vs forbidden, or yet from going on cheerefully in propounding of good Lawes, for which they were called, and to which purpoſe Wee granted them in the end of Our ſaid Letter to the Speaker, to make it a Seſſion before Chriſtmas, whereof Wee vnderſtood them to bee very deſirous, that they reſolued to ſend the ſame vnto vs together with another Petition iuſtifying the former, notwithſtanding Our forbidding them in Our ſaid Letter to ſend the former Petition vnto Vs, as alſo ſate euer ſilent thereafter, till they were diſſolued, as ſhall hereafter more largely be expreſſed.

Thoſe petitions being ſent from the Commons by a ſelect number of that Houſe vnto Vs then being at *Newmarket* for Our health, the Houſe forbare to proceed in any buſineſſe of importance, purpoſing,

poſing, as was apparantly diſcerned, and as the euent prooued, ſo to continue vntill the returne of their Meſſengers with Our Anſwere; which wee vnderſtanding, and being deſirous to haue the time better huſbanded, as was fit (the ſhortneſſe thereof, by reaſon of the approach of Chriſtmas being reſpected) required Our Secretarie to deliuer a Meſſage vnto them for this purpoſe, which he did, firſt by word of mouth, and after by appointment of the Houſe ſet it downe in writing in theſe words, viz.

HIs Maieſtie, remembring that this Houſe was deſirous to haue a Seſſion betweene this and Chriſtmaſſe, whereupon it pleaſed Him to ſignifie vnto vs, that wee ſhould haue contentment therein, and that there ſhould bee a Seſſion, if wee

our ſelues were not in fault, taking now notice that the Houſe forbeares to proceede with any Billes vntill the returne of the Meſſengers, lately ſent vnto his Maieſtie, hath enioyned mee to commaund the Houſe in his Name not to loſe time in their proceeding, for preparing of good Lawes in the meane while, in conſideration of this ſo neere approach of Chriſtmaſſe; And that his Maieſtie hopes they will not take vpon them to make a Receſſe in effect, though not in ſhew without his warrant.

BVt this Meſſage being deliuered, was ſo farre from working that good effect, which Wee did moſt iuſtly expect, that contrariwiſe ſome captious and curious

ous heads tooke exception thereat, as tending to the breach of their Priuiledges, by commanding them to proceede with Bills, though We thereby, neither designed any particular Billes for them to proceed with, nor yet forbade any other Parliamentary proceedings; And with those, and such other vndutifull straines of wit, they spunne out the time vntill the returne of their Messengers, who being come to *Newmarket*, presented both the Petitions vnto vs, who well knowing beforehand the effect of the former, and then obseruing the contents of the latter, and finding, that from both did reflect vpon Our Person and gouernment sundry causelesse aspersions, and that thereby Our Royall Prerogatiues were inuaded and assailed, after an admonition to beware of medling therewith, Wee returned vnto them Our Answere in writing, as followeth.

HIS MAIESTIES ANſwere to the Apologetike Petition of the Houſe of COMMONS, *Preſented to his Maieſty by a dozen of the Members of that Houſe, by their directions.*

WEe muſt heere begin in the ſame faſhion that We would haue done if your firſt Petition had come to Our hands before Wee had made a ſtay thereof, which is to repeate the firſt wordes of the late Queene *of famous memory, vſed by her in Anſwer to an inſolent propoſition, made by a* Polonian *Ambaſſadour vnto her, That is,* Legatum expectabamus, Heraldum accepimus. *For We had great reaſon to*

to expect that the first Message from your House should haue beene a Message of thankesgiuing for Our continued gracious behauiour towards Our people since your last Recesse, not onely by Our Proclamation of Grace, wherein were conteined sixe or seuen and thirty Articles, all of seuerall points of Grace to the people; but also by the labour Wee tooke for the satisfaction of both Houses in those three Articles recommended vnto Vs in both their names by the right Reuerend Father in God, the Archbishop of Canterbury, *And likewise for the good gouernement of* Ireland *We are now in hand with at your request. But not onely haue Wee heard no newes of all this, but contrary great complaints of the danger of Religi-*

on within this Kingdome tacitely implying Our ill gouernement in this point. And Wee leaue to you to iudge, whether it be your dueties that are the Representatiue body of Our people, so to distaste them with Our gouernement, whereas by the contrary it is your duety with all your endeauours to kindle more and more a dutifull and thankefull loue in the peoples hearts towards Us for Our iust and gracious gouernment. Now, whereas in the very beginning of this your Apologie, you taxe Us in faire termes of trusting vncertaine reports, and partiall informations concerning your proceedings, Wee wish you to remember, that We are an old and experienced King, needing no such lessons, being in Our conscience freest of any

King

King aliue from hearing or truſting idle reports, which ſo many of your Houſe as are neereſt Vs can beare witneſſe vnto you, if you would giue as good eare to them, as you doe to ſome Tribunitiall Orators amongſt you. And for proofe in this particular, Wee haue made your owne Meſſengers conferre your other Petition, ſent by you, with the copy thereof, which was ſent Vs before, betweene which there is no difference at all, but that ſince Our receiuing the firſt Copie you added a concluſion vnto it, which could not come to Our hands till it was done by you, and your Meſſengers ſent, which was all at one time. And if that Wee had had no Copie of it before hand, Wee muſt haue receiued your firſt Petition to

Our

Our great diſhonour, before Wee had knowen what it conteyned, which would haue enforced Vs to haue returned you a farre worſe Anſwere then now Wee doe. For then your Meſſengers had returned with nothing; but that Wee haue iudged your petition vnlawfull, and vnworthy of an Anſwere. For as to your Concluſion thereof, it is nothing, but Proteſtatio contraria facto. *For in the body of your Petition you vſurpe vpon Our Prerogatiue Royall, and meddle with things farre aboue your reach: And then in the couclusion you proteſt the contrary, as if a Robber would take a mans purſe, and then proteſt hee meant not to rob him. For firſt, you preſume to giue Vs your aduice concerning the match*

of

of Our deareſt Sonne with ſome Proteſtant, We cannot ſay Princeſſe (for Wee know none of theſe fit for him,) and diſſwade Vs from his match with Spaine, *vrging Vs to a preſent warre with that King: And yet in the concluſion, forſooth, ye proteſt ye intend not to preſſe vpon Our moſt vndoubted and regall Prerogatiue, as if the Petitioning of Vs in matters that your ſelues confeſſe yee ought not to meddle with, were not a medling with them. And whereas yee pretend, that you were inuited to this courſe by the ſpeeches of three Honourable Lords; Yet by ſo much as your ſelues repeat of their ſpeeches, nothing can bee concluded, but that We were reſolued by warre to regaine the* Palatinate, *if otherwiſe*

Wee could not attaine vnto it; and you were inuited to aduiſe forthwith vpon a ſupply for keeping the forces in the Palatinate *from disbanding, and to foreſee the meanes for the rayſing and maintaining of the body of an Armie for that warre againſt the Spring. Now what inference can bee made vpon this, That therefore Wee muſt preſently denounce warre againſt the King of* Spaine, *breake Our deareſt Sonnes match, and match him to one of Our Religion, let the world iudge. The difference is no greater, then as if Wee would tell a Merchant, that Wee had great neede to borrow money from him, for rayſing an Armie, that thereupon it ſhould follow, that Wee were bound to follow his aduice in the directions*

of

of the warre, and all things depending thereupon. But yet not contenting your ſelues with this excuſe of yours, which indeed cannot hold water, yee come after to a direct contradiction to the concluſion of your former Petition, ſaying, That the Honour and ſafety of Vs and Our Poſterity, and the Patrimony *of Our Children, inuaded and poſſeſſed by their enemies, the welfare of Religion, and State of Our Kingdome are matter at any time not vnfit for your deepeſt conſiderations in Parliament. To this generality We anſwere with the* Logicians, *That where all things are contained, nothing is omitted. So as this plenipotencie of yours inueſts you in all power vpon Earth, lacking nothing but the Popes*

to haue the keyes also both of Heauen and Purgatory. And to this vaſte generality of yours, Wee can giue no other anſwer, for it will trouble all the beſt Lawyers in the Houſe to make a good Commentary vpon it: For ſo did the Puritan Miniſters in Scotland bring all kinde of cauſes within the compaſſe of their iuriſdiction, ſaying, That it was the Churches office to iudge of ſlander, and there could no kinde of crime or fault bee committed, but there was a ſlander in it, either againſt God, the King, or their Neighbour. And by this meanes they hooked in to themſelues the cogniſance of all cauſes, or like Bellarmines *diſtinction of the Popes power ouer all Kings, in ordine ad* Spiritualia, *whereby he giues him all*

tem-

temporall iuriſdiction ouer them. But to giue you a direct anſwere to the matter of warre, for which you are ſo earneſt, We confeſſe We rather expected that you ſhould haue giuen Vs great and heartie thankes for the ſo long maintaining a ſetled peace in all Our Dominions, when as all Our Neighbours about are in a miſerable combuſtion of Warre; but Dulce bellum inexpertis, *and We indeed find by experience, that a number of Our Subiects are ſo pampered with peace, as they are deſirous of change, though they know not what. It is true that We haue euer profeſſed, and in that minde, with Gods grace, Wee meane to liue and die, That We will labour by all meanes poſſible, either by treaty, or by force to reſtore Our Chil-*

dren to their ancient Dignities and Inheritances; and whatsoeuer Christian Princes or Potentates will set themselues against it, Wee will not spare any lawfull meanes to bring Our so iust and Honourable purpose to a good end; neither shall the Match of Our Sonne, or any other worldly respect be preferred to this Our Resolution: For by Our credit, and interuention with the King of Spaine, and the Arch-duchesse, and her Husband now with God, Wee preserued the lower Palatinat one whole yeere from any further conquering in it, which within any eight dayes space in that time might haue easily been swallowed vp by Spinolaes Armie, without any resistance; and in no better case was it now, at Our Ambassadour, the

Lord

Lord Digbies *comming through* Heydleberge, *if he had not extraordinarily ſuccoured it. But becauſe Wee perceiue that ye couple this warre of the* Palatinate *with the cauſe of Religion, We muſt a little vnfold your eyes herein. The beginning of this miſerable warre, which hath ſet all Chriſtendome on fire, was not for Religion; but onely cauſed by Our Sonne in law his haſtie and raſh Reſolution, following euill counſell, to take to himſelfe the Crowne of* Bohemia: *And that this is true, himſelfe wrote Letters vnto Vs at that time, deſiring Vs to giue aſſurance, both to the French King, and State of* Venice, *that his accepting of the Crowne of* Bohemia *had no reference to the cauſe of Religion, but onely by reaſon*

ſon of his right by Election (as hee called it:) And we would be ſorrie that that aſperſion ſhould come vpon Our Religion, as to make it a good pretext for dethroning of Kings, and vſurping their Crownes. And Wee would bee loath that Our people here ſhould be taught that doctrine: No, let vs not ſo farre wrong the Ieſuites, as to rob them of their ſweet Poſitions and practiſe in that point. And vpon the other part, We aſſure Our ſelfe ſo farre of your charitable thoughts of Vs, that We would neuer haue conſtantly denyed Our Sonne in law, both the title and aſſiſtance in that point, if Wee had beene well perſwaded of the iuſtice of his quarrell. But to conclude this point, This vniuſt vſurpation of the Crownes of Bohemia and Hungaria

garia *from the Emperour, hath giuen the Pope, and all that partie, too faire a ground, and opened them too wide a gate for the curbing and oppreſsing of many thouſands of Our Religion, in diuers parts of Chriſtendome. And whereas yee excuſe your touching vpon the King of* Spaine *vpon the occaſion of the incidents by you repeated in that place, and yet affirme that it is without any touch to his honor, We cannot wonder ynough, that ye are ſo forgetfull, both of your words and writs. For in your former Petition ye plainely affirme, that hee affects the Temporall Monarchie of the whole earth, then which there can be no more malice vttered againſt any great King, to make all other Princes and Potentates, both enuie*

and hate him. But, if ye liſt, it may be eaſily tryed, whether that ſpeech touched him in honour or not, if We ſhall aske him the queſtion, whether hee meanes to aſſume to himſelfe that title or no; For euery King can beſt iudge of his owne honour. Wee omit the particular eiaculations of ſome foule mouthed Orators in your Houſe, againſt the honour of his Crowne and State. And touching your excuſe of not determining any thing concerning the Match of Our deareſt Sonne, but onely to tell your opinions, and lay it downe at Our feet; Firſt, We deſire to know how you could haue preſumed to determine in that point, without committing of high Treaſon. And next, you cannot deny, but your talking of his Match after that manner was

a direct breach of Our commande-ment & Declaration out of Our own mouth, at the first sitting downe of this Parliament; where We plainely pro-fessed, that We were in treatie of his Match with Spaine, *and wished you to haue that confidence in Our Reli-gion and Wisedome, that We would so manage it, as our Religion should receiue no preiudice by it. And the same We now repeat vnto you, profes-sing, that We are so farre ingaged in that Match, as We cannot in honour goe backe, except the King of* Spaine *performe not such things as We ex-pect at his hands. And therefore We are sorrie, that ye should shew to haue so great distrust in Vs, or to conceiue that We should be cold in our Religi-on: Otherwise We cannot imagine*

how Our former publike Declaration ſhould not haue ſtopped your mouthes in this point. And as to your requeſt, that We would now receiue your former Petition, We wonder what could make you preſume that Wee would now receiue it; whereas in Our former Letter We plainely declared the contrarie vnto you; and therefore Wee haue iuſtly reiected that ſuit of yours: For what haue you left vnattempted in the higheſt points of Soueraigntie in that Petition of yours, except the ſtriking of Coine; For it containes the violation of Leagues, the particular way how to gouerne a warre, and the Marriage of Our deareſt Sonne, both negatiue with Spaine, nay with any other Popiſh Princeſſe; and alſo affirmatiue, as to the matching with one of

Our

Our Religion, which Wee confeſſe is a ſtraine beyond any prouidence or wiſedome God hath giuen Vs, as things now ſtand. Theſe are vnfit things to be handled in Parliament, except your King ſhould require it of you; For who can haue wiſedome to iudge of things of that nature, but ſuch as are daily acquainted with the particulars of Treaties, and of the variable or fixed connexion of affaires of State, together with the knowledge of the ſecret wayes, ends, and intentions of Princes in their ſeuerall negotiations; otherwiſe a ſmall miſtaking in matters of this nature, may produce more effects then can be imagined: And therefore, Ne ſutor vltra crepidam. *And beſides, the intermedling in Parliament with matters of*

Peace or Warre, and Marriage of Our dearest Sonne, would be such a diminution to Us and to Our Crowne in forreine Countreys, as would make any Prince neglect to treat with Us, either in matters of Peace or Marriage, except they might be assured by the assent of Parliament. And so it prooued long agoe with a King of France, *who upon a tricke procuring his States to dissent from some treaty, which before he had made, was after refused treating with by other Princes, to his great reproach, vnlesse hee would first procure the assent of the three Estates to their proposition. And will you cast your eyes vpon the late times, you shall finde, that the late Queene of famous memorie was humbly petitioned by a Parliament to be plea-*

pleaſed to Marrie; But her anſwere was, That ſhee liked their Petition well, becauſe it was ſimple, not limiting her to place or perſon, as not befitting her liking to their fancies; and if they had done otherwiſe, ſhee would haue thought it a high preſumption in them. Iudge then what Wee may doe in ſuch a caſe, hauing made Our publique Declaration alreadie, as VVee ſaid before, directly contrary to that which you haue now petitioned. Now to thoſe points in your Petition, whereof you deſire an anſwere, as properly belonging to a Parliament; The firſt and greateſt point is that of Religion, concerning which at this time Wee can giue you no other anſwere then in the generall, which is, That you may reſt ſecure, that Wee

will neuer be wearie to doe all Wee can for the propagation of Our Religion, and repreſsing of Poperie; but the maner and forme you muſt remit to Our care and prouidence, who can beſt conſider of times and ſeaſons, not by vndertaking a publique warre of Religion through all the world at once, which how hard and dangerous a taske it would prooue, you may iudge. But this puts vs in mind, how all the world complained the laſt yeere of plentie of Corne, and God hath ſent vs a cooling card this yeere for that heat; And ſo We pray God, that this deſire amongſt you of kindling warres, ſhewing your wearineſſe of Peace and Plentie, may not make God permit vs to fall in the miſeries of both. But as Wee alreadie ſaid,

Our

Our care of Religion must be such, as on the one part We must not by the hote prosecution of Our Recusants at home irritate forreine Princes of contrary Religion, and teach them the way to plague the Protestants in their Dominions, whom with Wee daily intercede, and at this time prinerpally, for ease to them of Our profession that liue vnder them; yet vpon the other part, We neuer meane to spare from due and seuere punishment any Papist that will grow insolent for liuing vnder Our so milde Gouernment. And you may also be assured, We will leaue no care vntaken, as well for the good education of the youth at home, especially the children of Papists, as also for preseruing at all times hereafter the youth that are, or shall be seruants,

from being bred in dangerous places, and ſo poiſoned in Popiſh Seminaries. And as in this point, namely concerning the good education of the Popiſh youth at home, We haue alreadie giuen ſome good proofe, both in this Kingdome and in Ireland : *So will We be well pleaſed to paſſe any good Lawes that ſhall be made, either now, or at any time hereafter to this purpoſe. And as to your requeſt, of making this a Seſſion, and granting a generall Pardon, it ſhall be in your defaults if Wee make not this a Seſſion before Chriſtmas, as in Our former Letter We notified vnto you. But for the Pardon, yee craue ſuch particulars in it as Wee muſt be well adviſed vpon, leſt otherwiſe Wee giue you backe the double or triple of that*

Wee

Wee are to receiue by your entire Subſidie without Fifteens. But the ordinarie courſe Wee hold fitteſt to bee vſed ſtill in this caſe, which is, that Wee ſhould of Our free grace ſend you downe a Pardon from the Higher Houſe, containing ſuch points as We ſhall thinke fitteſt, wherein We hope ye ſhall receiue good ſatisfaction. But We cannot omit to ſhew you how ſtrange We thinke it, that ye ſhould make ſo bad and vniuſt a Commentarie vpon ſome words of Our former Letter, as if We meant to reſtraine you thereby of your ancient priuiledges and liberties in Parliament. Truly a ſcholler would bee aſhamed ſo to miſplace and miſiudge any ſentences in another mans booke. For whereas in the fore-end of Our for-

mer Letter We discharge you to med-dle with matters of gouernment, or mysteries of State, namely matters of Warre or Peace, or Our dearest Sonnes Match with Spaine ; *by which particular denominations We interpret and restraine Our former words; and then after We forbid you to meddle with such things as haue their ordinarie course in Courts of Iustice : Yee couple together those two distinct sentences, and plainly leaue out these words,* of mysteries of State ; *So as yee erre* à bene diuisis ad male coniuncta. *For of the former part, concerning mysteries of State, Wee plainelie restrained Our meaning to the particulars that were after mentioned: and in the latter We confesse Wee meant it*

by Sir Edward Cokes *fooliſh buſi-neſſe, becauſe theſe heades he is accuſed of were before your meeting preſented vnto Vs, and We had ſetled a legall courſe of proceeding therin. And therefore it had well become him, eſpeciallie being Our Seruant, and one of Our Councell, if he had had any thing againſt it, to haue complained vnto Vs, which he neuer did, though hee was ordinarilie at Our Court, ſince that time, and neuer had acceſſe refuſed vnto him. And although We cannot allow of the ſtile, calling it,* Your ancient and vndoubted right and inheritance, *but could rather haue wiſhed, that ye had ſaid that your priuiledges were deriued from the grace and permiſſion of Our Anceſtours and Vs;*

(For most of them grow from precedents, which shewes rather a toleration then inheritance.) Yet We are pleased to giue you Our Royall assurance, That as long as you shall continue to containe your selues within the limits of your dutie and respect to Vs (as Wee assure Our selfe you will doe) Wee will bee as carefull to maintaine and preserue your lawfull liberties and priuiledges as euer any Our Predecessours were, nay as to preserue Our owne Royall Prerogatiue. So as your House shall onelie haue neede to beware to trench vpon the Prerogatiue of the Crowne, which would enforce Vs, or any iust King to retrench them of their priuiledges, that would pare his Prerogatiue and flowers of the Crowne.

But

But of this We hope there ſhall neuer be cauſe giuen. To conclude then, ſince Wee haue now ſo largely expreſſed the ſinceritie of Our meaning vnto you, We require you to goe on cheerefullie, and to vſe all conuenient diligence for preparing ſuch good Lawes for Vs to paſſe at this time, as the people may ſee the care, that both Wee and you haue for the good gouernement of the Kingdome; ending as We did in Our former Letter; If there be not a happie Seſſion made at this time, it ſhall bee in your default. And aboue all, beware by your waywardneſſe at this time, to giue Our Childrens Aduerſaries cauſe to inſult vpon them, vpon the rumour that ſhall be ſpred abroad of a diſtraction betweene Vs and Our people, wherof

ye are the repreſentatiue bodie. At Our Court at Newmarket the 11. day of December, 1621.

THis Anſwere being giuen at *Newmarket*, on Tueſday, the eleuenth of *December*, and returned to the houſe on Friday, the fourteenth of that moneth, ſome carping wits that were more inclinable to peruert and wreſt Our words vnto a ſence contrary to our meaning, then to doe any good office betweene Vs and Our people, began to take exception at ſome words concerning their priuiledges toward the end of Our ſayd Anſwere, that thereby their Priuiledges were denied and infringed; And by their example others of more moderate and better temper were drawen into ſome doubts and iealouſies, which occaſioned much diſcontentment in the Houſe, which comming to Our eares, and being willing to

omit

omit nothing on Our part, that might assure the Commons that Wee meant nothing lesse then to violate their Priuiledges, for explanation of Our true intent in the former, We wrote Our Letters directed to Our Secretary, which followe in these words.

Right trusty and Welbeloued Councellour, Wee greet you well. Wee are sorrie to heare, that, notwithstanding Our reiterated Messages to Our House of Commons, for going on in their businesses in regard of the shortnesse of time, betwixt this and Christmas, and of their owne earnest desire, that Wee should now conclude a Session, by making of good and profitable Lawes,

they continue to loose time; And now of late, vpon Our gracious Answer sent vnto them, haue taken occasion to make more delay, in appointing a Committee to morrow, to consider vpon the points of Our Answer; and especially concerning that point in it which maketh mention of their priuiledges. Our pleasure therefore is, that you shall in Our name tell them, that We are so loath to haue time mis-spent, which is so pretious a thing, in the well vsing whereof Our people may receiue so great a benefit, as We are thus farre contented to discend from Our Royall dignity, by explaning at this time Our meaning in Our said Answer, touching that point, That all Our good Subiects in that House, that intend nothing but Our

Honour,

Honour, and the weale of the Common-wealth, may cleerely ſee Our intention. Whereas in Our ſayd Anſwere We told them, that Wee could not allow of the Bile, calling it their ancient and vndoubted right and inheritance; but could rather haue wiſhed, that they had ſayd their priuiledges were deriued from the grace and permiſſion of Our Anceſtors and Vs: (for moſt of them grow from preſidents, which ſhewes rather a toleration then inheritance) the plaine truth is, That Wee cannot with patience endure Our Subiects to vſe ſuch Antimonarchicall words to Vs concerning their Liberties, except they had ſubioyned, that they were granted vnto them by the grace and fauour of Our Predeceſſours. But as for Our inten-

tion herein, God knowes Wee neuer meant to deny them any lawfull Priuiledges that euer that Houſe enioyed in Our Predeceſſours times, as We expected Our ſaid Anſwere ſhould haue ſufficiently cleered them; neither in Juſtice what euer they haue vndoubted right vnto; nor in Grace what euer Our Predeceſſours or We haue graciouſly permitted vnto them: And therefore We made that diſtinction of the moſt part; For whatſoeuer Priuiledges or Liberties they enioy by any Law or Statute, ſhall be euer inuiolably preſerued by Vs; And Wee hope Our Poſteritie will imitate Our footſteps therein. And whatſoeuer Priuiledges they enioy by long Cuſtome, and vncontrolled and lawfull Preſidents, Wee will likewiſe be as carefull

to

to preſerue them, and tranſmit the care thereof to Our Poſteritie; neither was it any way in Our minde to thinke of any particular point wherein Wee meant to diſallow of their Liberties. So as in Iuſtice We confeſſe Our ſelues to be bound to maintaine them in their rights; and in Grace We are rather minded to encreaſe, then infringe any of them, if they ſhall ſo deſerue at Our hands. To end therefore as Wee began, let them goe on cheerefully in their buſineſſes, reiecting the curious wrangling of Lawyers vpon words and ſyllables; otherwiſe (which God forbid) the world ſhall ſee how often and how earneſtly Wee haue preſſed them to goe on, according to their calling, with thoſe things that are fit to be done for the

weale of Our Crowne and Kingdome; And how many curious ſhifts haue beene from time to time maliciouſly found out, to fruſtrate Vs of Our good purpoſe, and hinder them from the performance of that Seruice, which they ought to Vs and to Our whole Kingdome; whereof when the Countrey ſhall come to be truely enformed, they will giue the Authours thereof little thankes.

Giuen at Our Court at Royſton, the ſixteenth day of December, 1621.

To Our right truſtie and welbeloued Councellor, Sir *George Caluert*, Knight, one of Our principall Secretaries.

AND

AND finding, that notwithſtanding all this care taken by Vs for their ſatisfaction, & that Our thrice reiterated preſsing them to husband well the ſhortneſſe of time, in doing good buſineſſe fit for a Parliament, Wee were ſo farre from preuailing with them, as to all thoſe three admonitions of Ours, which are here related, Firſt, by Our meſſage deliuered by Our Secretary; Next, by Our concluſion of Our Anſwere to their Petition; And laſtly, by the concluſion of Our explanation ſent to Our Secretarie; We neither got anſwere, nor obedience; Yet the continuall care Wee had that this meeting ſhould not diſſolue without ſome fruit for the publike good of Our Subiects, made Vs addreſſe another Letter to the Speaker in theſe words.

Maſter

MAster Speaker, *Whereas at the humble ſuit of Our houſe of Commons Wee condeſcended to make this meeting a Seſſion before Chriſtmas, to which purpoſe We gaue them time vntill Saturday next, in caſe they would ſeriouſly applie themſelues to that end; & likewiſe ſince, out of Our Grace, and to take away al miſtakings, by Our Letters directed to Our Secretarie, Wee were pleaſed ſo fully and clearely to explane Our ſelues in the point of maintaining all lawfull Priuiledges to Our ſaid Houſe, which ſince Wee cannot heare hath had the wiſhed effect, in making them ſpend this ſhort time in preparing things moſt neceſſary for a Seſſion, Wee haue thought*

thought good once more clearely by this to impart Our minde vnto them; which is, that in respect of the expectation after this so long a meeting in Parliament, as also that the generalitie, for the most part, rather iudge things by the outward effects then enter into the causes of them, Wee haue an earnest desire to make this a Session, to the end that our good and louing Subiects may haue some taste, aswell of Our Grace and goodnesse towards them, by our free Pardon, and good Lawes to bee passed, as they haue had, both by the great, and vnusuall examples of Iustice since this meeting, and the so many eases and comforts giuen vnto them by Proclamatiõ: And therfore calling to minde, that the passing of the Subsidie, an Acte for continuance

of Statutes, and the Pardon, are the three most pressing busnesses to be effected before the end of the Session, Wee wish them, that, as Wee haue giuen order for the Pardon to goe on with all expedition, so they presently goe in hand with the Acte for continuance of Statutes. As for the Subsidie, though time presseth much, yet if they finde it may not now conueniently be done, we will not make that any way an impediment to the good which Wee desire our people should feele by making this a Session. Thus much We thought good to giue them to vnderstand, and withall to assure them, that if they shall not applie themselues instantly to prepare the aforesaid things for Our Royall Assent against Saturday next, Wee

will

will without expecting any further answere from them, construe by their slackenesse, that they desire not a Session; and in such case We must giue a larger time for their returning homeward, to such of both Houses as are to goe into their Countreys to keepe hospitalitie among their neighbours in this time of Recesse.

Giuen at our Court at *Theobalds*, the 17. day of *December*, 1621.

To Our trustie and welbeloued, Sir *Thomas Richardson*, Knight, Speaker of Our Commons House of Parliament.

AND hauing at laſt (as Wee hoped) by theſe meanes ſcattered and diſperſed thoſe miſtes and vapours, which had beene thus raiſed about their Priuiledges, the Houſe hauing reſolued on Tueſday, the eighteenth of *December*, to returne thankes vnto Vs, and therewith an excuſe for not making a Seſſiō, and paſſing Bills, both conteined in a Petition in writing, and diſpatched the ſame vnto Vs, being by that time come to *Theobalds*, the tenour whereof followeth.

May it pleaſe your moſt Excellent MAIESTIE,

WE *your moſt loyall and humble Subiects, the Knights, Citizens and Burgeſſes of your Commons Houſe of Parliament, hauing this*

this Morning, to our great comfort, heard your Maieſties Letter ſent to our Speaker, full of Grace, and Goodneſſe to vs and all your people, haue thought it our duetie foorthwith, to returne our moſt humble and hearty thankes to your Sacred Maieſtie, for ſo Royall a fauour vouchſafed vnto vs; And we doe humbly beſeech your Maieſtie to be truely informed from vs, that although we haue beene very deſirous in our duetie to your Maieſtie, who called vs to this ſeruice, and to our Countrey for whom we ſerue, to haue ſome good Lawes now to haue beene paſſed; and that there might haue beene a Seſſion before Chriſtmaſſe, to which your Maieſtie vpon our humble Petition, was heretofore Graciouſly pleaſed to giue

way; yet entring now into a ſerious conſideration of the nature of thoſe things, which muſt of neceſſitie be prepared for the finiſhing of a Seſſion, and the ſtrait of time whereunto we are driuen, by ſome vnhappy diuerſions which haue fallen vpon vs, to our great griefe, wee are enforced once againe to fly to your Maieſties Grace and fauour, humbly ſubmitting our ſelues to your Royall wiſedome, what time will be fitteſt for our departure, and for our reaccеſſe, to perfect thoſe beginnings which are in preparation with vs; which time by Gods grace we reſolue to ſpend with that diligence and care, as ſhall giue good ſatisfaction to your Maieſtie, to our Countrey, and to our owne conſciences, that we ſhall make good vſe thereof.

This

THis Wee accepted graciously, and returned them an answere by their owne Messengers in these words.

THAT We were sorrie this could not bee made a Session, according to their owne desire expressed in their late Petition preferred vnto Vs, to which Wee had most willingly assented; that they knew there was no fault in Vs, who obseruing the needlesse impediments, vpon which they tooke occasion to stay their proceedings, had often admonished them, not to lose time; first, by Secretary Calvert, and afterwards by three sundry Letters and Answers. But since they conceiued the straitnesse of time (which they had drawne

vpon

vpon themſelues) was ſuch, that it would permit nothing to bee done at this time, Wee had giuen order to adiourne the Parliament till the eighth of February next, which was the firſt day Wee had formerly appointed for Our meeting together.

Wee were likewiſe pleaſed to ſay, that Wee could not omit to tell them, that we expected other thankes from them, then they had ſent Vs at this time, namely for Our gracious promiſes to maintaine their Priuiledges, as Our owne Soueraigne Prerogatiue: Firſt contained in Our Anſwere to their Petition, and afterwards as clearely explaned and enlarged by Our next Letter to Secretarie Caluert, as Our wits, for their ſafetie, ſatisfaction and aduantage, could

poſsibly

poſsibly deuiſe; but of this We heard nothing, being ſlipt by, and wholly omitted by them.

WHich meſſage was accordingly deliuered the next morning in the Houſe of Commons. But while We were buſied at *Theobalds* in receiuing their Petition, and returning this anſwere agreeable to Our Grace and good intention towards them, theſe mutinous and diſcontented ſpirits, neuer giuing ouer their wicked purpoſe, began anew to ſtirre the coles of diſcontentment amongſt them; and making them beleeue, that their Priuiledges were yet in danger (vpon what ground God knowes, Wee cannot imagine nor gueſſe) procured a Committee to be made for taking their Liberties into con ſideration; where a Proteſtation was made, to

whom Wee know not, concerning their Priuiledges, which they pretended to bee violated by Our Letters and meſſages, and thereupon in an vnſeaſonable houre, being ſixe of the clocke at night, and a very thinne Houſe, ſcarcely comming to the third part of the full number, contrary to their owne cuſtome in all ma ters of weight, they conclude and enter a Proteſtation for their Liberties, in ſuch ambiguous and generall words, as might ſerue for future times to inuade moſt of thoſe Rights and Prerogatiues annexed to Our Imperiall Crowne, as bee the very markes and Characters of Monarchie and Souereignetie, and whereof Wee found Our Crowne vndoubtedly poſſeſſed. For founding the claime of their Priuiledges vpon the words of Our Writt for aſſembling a Parliament, the contriuers of that Proteſtation craftily mentioned ſome words, *viz. Super arduis Regni negotijs*, but of purpoſe left out *quibuſdam*, which reſtraines that generalitie to ſuch particular Caſes, as Wee are to conſult with them vpon. And the very vncontrolled Cuſtome

Cuſtome of all times doeth manifeſtly prooue, that the King Himſelfe, or His Chancellour in his name, doeth at the very beginning of the Parliament declare vnto them what things theſe *quibuſdam* are, wherein hee craueth their aduice and aſſiſtance; And vſe is euer the beſt interpreter of words in a caſe of this nature: Vpon which vnduetifull Proteſtation Wee were iuſtly occaſioned to publiſh Our pleaſure for diſſolution of the Parliament, as appeares by Our Proclamation.

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